



Since its initial efforts in implementing GPRA, CDC has continued to work with its partners and HHS to update and integrate enhancements to its performance plans and reports. CDC's success in developing a good performance plan is based on its use of and access to data and the ability to communicate the linkage between CDC's programs and the desired health outcomes.

CDC's reliance on data and access to data are exemplified by its approach to public health problems. In order to address these problems, CDC uses a reliable, proven, flexible four-step process that adapts to the wide variety of problems that are subjects of CDC programs: infectious diseases, environmental and occupational health, injuries, and chronic diseases. This public health approach consists of detecting and defining a problem through surveillance, determining the causes, developing and testing potential strategies for handling the problem, and implementing nationwide prevention programs. The approach is solidly based in science and is reflected in CDC's programs as well as its evaluation of programs.

As of December 31, 2001, CDC has achieved or exceeded targets set for 145 of the 217 performance measures in CDC's FY 2001 Performance Report. Only 20 targets were not met, and data are outstanding for 52 of the performance measures contained in the plan. Measures with outstanding data will be reported as soon as results become available. We anticipate that we will have data available for 45 measures in 2002 and for six measures in 2003; data for one measure will not be available until 2004. However, at this point, CDC has achieved or exceeded 88% of its targets for which data are available.

Numbers, of course, tell only part of CDC's performance story. In an ongoing effort to improve our performance plan and report, we revised our plan so that each section now addresses the three CDC identity themes in greater detail:

- protecting the health and safety of Americans,
- providing credible information to enhance health decisions,
- promoting health through strong partnerships.

For the latest detailed descriptions about CDC's programs, their intended results, and ongoing activities, see the publication *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's FY 2003 Performance Plan, FY 2002 Final Performance Plan, and FY 2001 Performance Report* (available spring 2002).